

REMARKS

Claims 13-33 have been withdrawn following an election of Species I, claims 1-12.

Claims 1-12 have been examined. Claims 1-12 are all the claims pending in the application.

Claim objections

Claims 2-5, 7-9, and 12 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. However, Applicant respectfully submits that such rewriting is unnecessary in light of the arguments which follow.

Election/Restrictions

The Examiner requires affirmation of the election of Species I, claims 1-12 made by telephone on May 15, 2006. Applicants affirm the election of Species I, Figs. 4-20 made by telephone on May 15, 2006. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1-12 are readable on Species I.

Claim objections

Claims 1 and 4 stand objected to for informalities. Applicant has herein amended claims 1 and 4 as suggested by the Examiner, and respectfully requests the Examiner to remove the rejection.

Drawing/Specification changes

Applicant has amended the drawings and the specification as indicated herein in order to correct informalities. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added, and respectfully requests the Examiner to enter the amendments into the record.

Claim rejections -- 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1 and 11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,954,184 to Kurashima in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,104,370 to Nakagaki. Moreover, claims 6 and 10 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Kurashima and Nakagaki as applied to claims 1 and 11, in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,826,014 to Ohtani.

Independent claim 1 recites the feature of a plurality of first switch groups , each first switch group connected to the data lines of one of the display units, and a plurality of second switch groups, each second switch group connected to the scan lines of one of the display units. The Examiner acknowledges that Kurashima does not disclose this feature, but cites Nakagaki as allegedly curing the deficiency. Specifically, the Examiner argues that Nakagaki, at Fig. 6, discloses switches 42, 43, 33b, and that one of ordinary skill would have combined the switches with the teachings of Kurashima, the motivation being to control the output of video signals to the signal lines and control the output of a scanning signal to the scanning lines of Kurashima's display units. However, we disagree with the Examiner's position.

At col. 14, lines 18-27 of Kurashima, Kurashima teaches that the main display 1B and the sub-display 2B share wires to which an image signal is supplied. In other words, referring to Fig. 6 of Kurashima, data wires 73 also carry data through third wires 97 and fifth wires 91 to data lines 83 of the sub-display. Therefore, at least for these lines, it would be impossible to use multiple switch groups connected to the data lines of one of the display units for driving the data lines of one of the displays, as set forth by the claim because data would not need to be switched to one of the main and sub-displays. In other words, the references teach away from their combination. Thus, one having ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teachings of the Kurashima and Nakagaki references. Since neither the Kurashima nor the Nakagaki reference discloses all of the features of independent claim 1, claim 1 is patentable.

The remaining claims are patentable based on their respective dependencies.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

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AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Applicant respectfully submits four (4) replacement drawing sheets.

Attachment: Four (4) Replacement Sheets